

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 REYKJA 01436 221115Z

51

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 OMB-01 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /062 W

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R 221040Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4924

INFO CINCLANT

COMICEDEFOR

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE REYKJAVIK 1436

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT IC

SUBJECT: TWO OPPOSITION PARTY LEADERS STEP DOWN

1. WITHIN PAST WEEK CHAIRMEN OF BOTH MAJOR  
OPPOSITION POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE REVEALED THAT  
THEY WILL NOT BE CANDIDATES TO SUCCEED THEMSELVES  
AT RESPECTIVE NATIONAL CONVENTIONS THIS FALL.

2. GYLFI GISLASON, WHOSE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY  
IS ONLY PARTY TO LOSE SEATS IN EACH OF THE LAST TWO  
PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS, STRESSED NEED TO DIVERSIFY  
SDP LEADERSHIP IN ANNOUNCING DECISION. HE WILL  
REMAIN AS HEAD OF SDP'S PARLIAMENTARY GROUP.  
ALTHOUGH HE ACTED VOLUNTARILY, GISLASON WAS IN  
TROUBLE WITHIN PARTY BECAUSE OF SDP'S POOR SHOWING  
AT POLLS AND NOT SURE OF REELECTION. VICE CHAIRMAN  
BENEDIKT GRONDAL APPEARS NOW TO BE MOST LIKELY  
SUCCESSOR.

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PAGE 02 REYKJA 01436 221115Z

3. RAGNAR ARNALDS, 36-YEAR OLD CHAIRMAN OF PEOPLES ALLIANCE, HAS OFFERED NO PUBLIC REASON FOR HIS RESIGNATION. HOWEVER, HE OWED POSITION, IN WHICH HE HAS BEEN LITTLE MORE THAN FIGUREHEAD, TO COMPROMISE BETWEEN REAL POWERS WITHIN PA, MAGNUS KJARTANSSON AND LUDVIK JOSEPSSON, AND IS PROBABLY LEAVING AT BEHEST OF ONE OR BOTH OF THEM. WHILE EITHER KJARTANSSON OR JOSEPSSON MAY, THEREFORE, NOW MAKE BID FOR LEADERSHIP, SPECULATION HAS THUS FAR CENTERED ON KJARTAN OLAFSSON, EDITOR OF PA'S DAILY THJODVILJINN, AND SVAVA JAKOBSDOTTIR, US-EDUCATED MP WHO IS VOCAL CRITIC OF U.S. AND VEHEMENTLY OPPOSED TO RETENTION OF NATO BASE IN ICELAND.  
IRVING

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL PARTIES, PARTY FACTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 OCT 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** kelleyw0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974REYKJA01436  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740300-0929  
**From:** REYKJAVIK  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Line Count:** 76  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** kelleyw0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 MAY 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <21 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <25-Sep-2002 by kelleyw0>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TWO OPPOSITION PARTY LEADERS STEP DOWN  
**TAGS:** PINT, IC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005